

Source and Consumer Products
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 950206040-5040-01; I.D.
120895B]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed
fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using

hook-and-line gear in the Bering Sea
and Aleutian Islands management area
(BSAI). This action is necessary because
the 1995 prohibited species bycatch
mortality allowance of Pacific halibut
specified for the Pacific cod hook-and-
line fishery in the BSAI has been
reached.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local
time (A.l.t.), December 11, 1995, until
12 midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive
economic zone is managed by NMFS
according to the Fishery Management
Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the
Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area
(FMP) prepared by the North Pacific
Fishery Management Council under
authority of the Magnuson Fishery
Conservation and Management Act.
Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by
regulations implementing the FMP at 50
CFR parts 620 and 675.

The 1995 Pacific halibut bycatch
mortality allowance for the hook-and-
line Pacific cod fishery, which is

defined at § 675.21(b)(2)(ii)(A), is 725
metric tons (60 FR 8479, February 14,
1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS,
has determined, in accordance with
§ 675.21(d), that the Pacific halibut
bycatch mortality allowance for the
Pacific cod hook-and-line fishery in the
BSAI has been reached. Therefore,
NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for
Pacific cod by vessels using hook-and-
line gear in the BSAI.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts
for applicable gear types may be found
in the regulations at § 675.20(h).

Classification

This action is taken under § 675.20
and is exempt review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 8, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries
Conservation and Management, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

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